



The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development

## Business Environment Working Group Teleconference

Monday, 21 October 2019

### Minutes of the Meeting

*Approved by email circulation on Friday, 15 November 2019.*

#### PRESENT

Andreja Marusic (World Bank Group, BEWG Chair)

Kåre Johard (SIDA)

Michelle McKenna Stewart (DFID)

Anastasia de Santos (USAID)

Peter Stoffelen (Netherlands)

Severine Deboos (ILO)

Siobhan Kelly (FAO)

Martin Weidner (GIZ)

Brigitte Bruhin (SECO)

Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento (UNIDO)

Anna Schrenk (UNIDO)

Jim Taburn (DCED Secretariat)

Simon White (Consultant to BEWG)

#### APOLOGIES

Toru Homma (JICA), Juergen Reinhardt (UNIDO), Catherine Masinde (World Bank Group)

## 1. Opening, welcome and introductions

Andreja Marusic (World Bank Group), BEWG chairperson, welcomed all participants. The meeting agenda was confirmed.

Juergen Reinhardt from UNIDO has indicated he is unable to continue with the BEWG as he is retiring. Juergen has been a long-standing and active member of the working group. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Department will join the working group in Juergen's place. In fact, Anna Schrenk represented UNIDO.

The meeting also welcomed Brigitte Bruhin for the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO as a new member.

## 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The draft minutes were reviewed and approved.

**AGREED: The Minutes of the Meeting, 11 June 2019, were previously approved.**

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

## 3 Promoting structural and economic transformation through BER

**Task Team:** World Bank Group (Andreja Marusic), Sida (Kåre Johard), DFID (Michelle McKenna), GIZ (Martin Weidner)

Michelle McKenna Stewart (DFID) provided an update on the work undertaken on this work item. The technical report has been completed and is now available via the DCED website. A policy brief is currently being prepared based on a synthesis of the findings of the BEWG

and Market Systems Working Group. This work has only just begun. A first draft should be ready for circulation in the next month or two.

There are tentative plans to hold an event in London in Q1 2020 at which the policy brief will be presented and discussed.

**AGREED: No further action proposed. Awaiting draft policy brief.**

#### **4 Use of new technologies in regulatory delivery**

**Task Team:** World Bank Group (Andreja Marusic), SECO (Alain Bühlmann), GIZ/BMZ (Martin Weidner)

Andreja Marusic provided an update on this work item. The technical report is still to be finalised and it is expected in the next week or two. The consultant will then commence on the policy brief.

**AGREED: No further action proposed. Awaiting final report and draft policy brief.**

#### **5 BER in fragile contexts**

**Task Team:** GIZ/BMZ (Martin Weidner), World Bank Group (Andreja Marusic), USAID (Anastasia de Santos), UNIDO (Noriko Takahashi), Sida (?)

This is a new work item for the current financial year.

Andreja Marusic described how the World Bank Group is preparing a strategy on Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV). The objective of the strategy is to address the drivers of FCV in affected countries and their impact on vulnerable populations, with the ultimate goal of contributing to peace and prosperity. Link to public consultation, the concept note and all material (the draft strategy will be published on this web site end of October): <https://consultations.worldbank.org/consultation/world-bank-group-strategy-fragility-conflict-and-violence>

Martin Weidner (GIZ) spoke on this topic and indicated that GIZ is very interested in it, especially within the context of the EU Investment Plan, Pillar 3. He will share a web link. He indicated that a literature review on BER in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS), focussing on Africa, is being prepared.

Severine Deboos (ILO) suggested the ILO has documents on local strategies in FCAS, which she would share.

Siobhan Kelly (FAO) described the FAO work in 'emergency states', which she indicated was relevant.

The new DCED staff member, Holger Grundel, has significant experience in fragile context (DFID-DRC) and is eager to support the Task Team.

**AGREED: Andreja Marusic will prepare a draft TOR for consideration by the Task Team.**

#### **6 Public-Private Dialogue and the use of new technologies**

**Task Team:** GIZ/BMZ (Martin Weidner), World Bank Group (Andreja Marusic) [support from JICA (Toru Homma)]

This is a new work item for the current financial year.

Andreja Marusic described how this work item will build on the work on digital technologies. In addition, there are close connections between this work item and FCAS, as well as the issues associated with BER and the informal economy.

A key focus of this work item will be to examine ways to better engage the private sector, and not only government. Thus, how business and governments use technology to interact.

Martin Weidner described the use of PPD to create demand for BER as well as a more recent trend to “push” for more private sector engagement in development programmes (e.g., where German businesses are encouraged to invest in Africa).

Brigitte Bruhin (SECO) expressed a strong interest in this topic and encouraged the group to look beyond Africa, particularly also to MIC, transition and emerging countries in Asia, Latin America and the ECA region.

Siobhan Kelly described FAO’s interest in this work and the importance of practical case studies.

**AGREED: Martin Weidner will prepare a draft TOR for consideration by the Task Team.**

## 7 BER Conference

This is a new work item for the current financial year. Simon White spoke to this topic and indicated that the conference would not be as large as those we held some 16 years ago (with 300-350 people) but would be something in the range of 60-100 people. It was proposed that the conference would be held alongside the DCED Annual Meeting and would fulfil the role of a “thematic day”, although this will have to be checked with the host agency (SDC) in Switzerland and the DCED Secretariat.

Proposed date: Sometime in the week beginning 1 June 2020.

*Postscript: SDC subsequently proposed the Thematic Day (on 4 June 2020) to be on ‘The State of the Art in Evaluation of PSD’. Planning for the BER conference will take this into account.*

Need to develop an objective and set of themes for the conference, in cooperation with the host agencies. It could be a good opportunity to revisit the DCED Donor Guidance on BER and its annexes. It would also be good to issue a call for papers for the conference. Thus, overall, the scale of the conference should be not too large and as focused as possible.

**AGREED: Simon White to draft brief concept note for consideration by Task Team, before being circulated to all BEWG members.**

## 8 BER and Special Economic Zones

Andreja Marusic spoke on this work item and proposed its postponement due to other financial and time demands being placed on the BEWG at present.

**AGREED: It was agreed that this item would be reconsidered in the work planning process for 2020-21.**

## 9 Business Environment Reform Webinars

Simon White provided an update on the current plans for future webinars.

<b>Topic:</b>	BER and Gender
<b>Contact</b>	Anastasia de Santos (USAID)
<b>Date:</b>	Late-January, early-February 2020
<b>Speakers:</b>	Representative: Women, Business and the Law (World Bank) Representative: USAID – women and secure land rights

	DCED-BEWG Technical Report and Annex: Gender and BER (Katherine Miles)
<b>Topic:</b>	<b>BER and Investment Promotion</b>
<b>Contact</b>	Toru Homma (JICA)
<b>Date:</b>	Second half of February or March 2020
<b>Speakers:</b>	To be determined
<b>Topic:</b>	<b>BER and Digital Technologies</b>
<b>Contact</b>	Andreja Marusic (World Bank Group)
<b>Date:</b>	To be determined
<b>Speakers:</b>	To be determined

## 10 Any other business

Severine Deboos reported that the ILO has produced a report on: Small Matters: Global evidence on the contribution to employment by the self-employed, micro-enterprises and SMEs, ILO, 2019. Drawing on a database of 99 countries, the report finds that 70% of global employment is in small economic units; in some low-income countries, this share can rise to 90%. Overall, 62% are in the informal sector.

Go to: [https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS\\_723282/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_723282/lang--en/index.htm)

Anastasia de Santos reported that USAID is producing a report on employment transformation. She will provide the link when it is available.

## 11 Next meeting

**AGREED: It was agreed that the next meeting would be in early December 2019.**

## 12 Close of meeting

Andreja closed the meeting, thanking members and presenters for their constructive and active participation.

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